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Free pre-Lie algebras are free as Lie algebras

F. Chapoton

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Abstract

We prove that free pre-Lie algebras, when considered as Lie algebras, are free. Working in the category of \mathfrak{S} -modules, we define a natural filtration on the space of generators. We also relate the symmetric group action on generators with the structure of the anticyclic PreLie operad.

Introduction

A pre-Lie algebra is a vector space V endowed with a bilinear map $\lrcorner : V \otimes V \rightarrow V$ such that

$$(x \lrcorner y) \lrcorner z - x \lrcorner (y \lrcorner z) = (x \lrcorner z) \lrcorner y - x \lrcorner (z \lrcorner y), \quad (1)$$

for all $x, y, z \in V$. This kind of algebra has been used for a long time in various areas, see [Bur06] for a survey. In geometry, there is a pre-Lie product on the space of vector fields of any variety endowed with an affine structure. In algebra, this kind of product appears for instance in relation with deformation theory, operads and vertex algebras.

In a previous article [CL01], the free pre-Lie algebras have been completely described in terms of rooted trees. The language of operads was a convenient setting for this.

In any pre-Lie algebra, the bracket $[x, y] = x \lrcorner y - y \lrcorner x$ satisfies the Jacobi identity and therefore defines a Lie algebra on the same vector space.

The main goal of this article is to prove that free pre-Lie algebras are free Lie algebras for the Lie bracket $[\ , \]$. This result has been obtained before with different methods by Foissy [Foi02]. We give here a new proof using a spectral sequence and obtain a natural filtration on the space of generators.

The article is written using the language of \mathfrak{S} -modules. We will briefly recall the main features of this theory. This is the natural category for operads and provides a clean way to deal with free algebras.

The main result is the fact that the \mathfrak{S} -module for pre-Lie algebras is isomorphic (as a Lie algebra in the category of \mathfrak{S} -modules) to the composition of the \mathfrak{S} -module for Lie algebras with a \mathfrak{S} -module X . This implies the statement above about free pre-Lie algebras. We also give a description of the \mathfrak{S} -module X and a relation between X and the anticyclic structure on the PreLie operad.

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1 Notations and \mathfrak{S} -modules

Let \mathbb{K} be a fixed ground field of characteristic zero.

We will work in the Abelian category of \mathfrak{S} -modules over \mathbb{K} or sometimes with complexes of \mathfrak{S} -modules over \mathbb{K} . Recall that a \mathfrak{S} -module P can either be seen as a functor P from the category of finite sets and bijections to the category of vector spaces over \mathbb{K} or as a sequence $(P(n))_{n \geq 0}$ of \mathbb{K} -modules over the symmetric groups \mathfrak{S}_n . We will use freely one or the other of these equivalent definitions.

The category of \mathfrak{S} -modules is symmetric monoidal for the following tensor product:

$$(F \otimes G)(I) = \sqcup_{I=J \sqcup K} F(J) \times G(K), \quad (2)$$

where I is a finite set.

There is another monoidal structure on \mathfrak{S} -modules which is non-symmetric and defined by

$$(F \circ G)(I) = \sqcup_{I \simeq} F(I/\simeq) \times \prod_{J \in I/\simeq} G(J), \quad (3)$$

where I is a finite set and \simeq runs over the set of equivalence relations on I .

An operad Q is essentially a monoid in the monoidal category of \mathfrak{S} -modules with \circ as tensor product, *i.e.* the data of a map from $Q \circ Q$ to Q which is associative.

We will consider \mathfrak{S} -modules endowed with various kinds of algebraic structures. One can define associative algebras, commutative algebras, exterior algebras, Lie algebras, Hopf algebras and pre-Lie algebras in the category of \mathfrak{S} -modules by using the symmetric monoidal product \otimes and the usual diagrammatic definitions. This works in particular for algebras over any operad Q . This kind of object is sometimes called a twisted algebra or a left-module over the corresponding operad. We will simply call them algebras.

If Q is an operad and P is an \mathfrak{S} -module, a structure of Q -algebra on P is given by a map from $Q \circ P$ to P .

If Q is an operad and P is an \mathfrak{S} -module, the \mathfrak{S} -module $Q \circ P$ is the free Q -algebra on P . The map from $Q \circ Q \circ P$ to $Q \circ P$ is deduced from the map from $Q \circ Q$ to Q defining the operad Q .

For instance, let us consider the following \mathfrak{S} -modules.

Let λ be a partition of an integer n . Then λ is associated with an irreducible representation of the symmetric group \mathfrak{S}_n , that will be denoted S^λ . This can be seen as a \mathfrak{S} -module concentrated in degree n . As a special case, S^1 is the trivial module over \mathfrak{S}_1 . Let S be the direct sum of all \mathfrak{S} -modules S^n corresponding to trivial modules over the symmetric groups.

Let T be the \mathfrak{S} -module defined as the direct sum of all the regular representations T^n over the symmetric groups.

Let Λ be the direct sum of all \mathfrak{S} -modules Λ^n corresponding to alternating modules over the symmetric groups.

There are morphisms of \mathfrak{S} -modules $S \otimes S \rightarrow S$, $T \otimes T \rightarrow T$ and $\Lambda \otimes \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda$, which define associative algebras in the category of \mathfrak{S} -modules. These algebras are essentially versions of the polynomial algebra, the tensor algebra and the exterior algebra.

For example, if I is a finite set, $T(I)$ is the vector space spanned by total orders on I . One can concatenate total orders on two sets I and J to get a total order on $I \sqcup J$. This defines the map from $T \otimes T$ to T .

Let P be an \mathfrak{S} -module. The generating series f_P associated with P is defined by

$$f_P = \sum_{n \geq 0} \dim(P(\{1, \dots, n\})) \frac{x^n}{n!}. \quad (4)$$

There is a more refined object, which is a symmetric function Z_P recording the action of the symmetric groups:

$$Z_P = \sum_{n \geq 0} \chi(P(\{1, \dots, n\})), \quad (5)$$

where χ is the image of the character of the \mathfrak{S}_n -module $P(\{1, \dots, n\})$ in the ring of symmetric functions. This symmetric function is a complete invariant, in the sense that two \mathfrak{S} -modules are isomorphic if and only if they share the same symmetric function.

For more information on \mathfrak{S} -modules and operads, see for instance [Liv06, LSV97].

1.1 Relation with usual algebra

Each \mathfrak{S} -module P defines a functor from vector spaces to vector spaces as follows:

$$P(V) = \oplus_{n \geq 0} P(n) \otimes_{\mathfrak{S}_n} V^{\otimes n}. \quad (6)$$

The tensor product \otimes of \mathfrak{S} -modules has the following property:

$$(F \otimes G)(V) \simeq F(V) \otimes G(V), \quad (7)$$

where V is a vector space.

The tensor product \circ of \mathfrak{S} -modules has the following property:

$$(F \circ G)(V) \simeq F(G(V)), \quad (8)$$

where V is a vector space.

If the \mathfrak{S} -module P is an operad and V is a vector space, then $P(V)$ is the free P -algebra on V .

Then, if P is a \mathfrak{S} -module with such an algebraic structure, *i.e.* a Q -algebra for some operad Q , the vector space $P(V)$ is endowed with the corresponding structure of Q -algebra in the category of vector spaces.

For instance, the classical algebra structures on $S(V)$, $T(V)$ and $\Lambda(V)$ (respectively the polynomial algebra, the tensor algebra and the exterior algebra) come from the morphisms of \mathfrak{S} -modules $S \otimes S \rightarrow S$, $T \otimes T \rightarrow T$ and $\Lambda \otimes \Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda$ that were introduced above.

2 The pre-Lie \mathfrak{S} -module W

A rooted tree on a set I is a connected and simply-connected graph with vertex set I together with a distinguished element of I called the root. Note that a

rooted tree can be canonically decomposed into its roots and a set of rooted trees obtained when the root is removed. Let W be the \mathfrak{S} -module which maps a finite set I to the vector space spanned by the set of rooted trees on I .

It has been shown in [CL01] that W is the operad describing pre-Lie algebras and in particular that $W(V)$ is the free pre-Lie algebra on a vector space V . There is a natural morphism $\curvearrowright: W \otimes W \rightarrow W$ corresponding to the PreLie product. This means that W is a pre-Lie algebra in the category of \mathfrak{S} -modules.

Let us recall briefly the definition of the map \curvearrowright .

Given a rooted tree S on a finite set I and a rooted tree T on a finite set J , one can define $S \curvearrowright T$ (which is a sum of rooted trees on the set $I \sqcup J$) as follows: consider the disjoint union of S and T , then add an edge between the root of T and a vertex of S and sum with respect to the chosen vertex of S . The root is taken to be that of S .

As there exists a morphism from the Lie operad to the PreLie operad given by

$$[x, y] = x \curvearrowright y - y \curvearrowright x, \quad (9)$$

there is a morphism $[\cdot, \cdot]: W \otimes W \rightarrow W$ which makes W into a Lie algebra in the category of \mathfrak{S} -modules.

The universal enveloping algebra of a Lie algebra is a well-defined associative algebra in the category of \mathfrak{S} -modules, which has most of the classical properties of the usual construction for vector spaces. Let $U(W)$ be the universal enveloping algebra of W .

In the sequel, we will call **W -module** a module over the Lie algebra W or equivalently a right module over $U(W)$. This notion is defined in the obvious way in the symmetric monoidal category of \mathfrak{S} -modules.

There are two distinct W -module structures on the \mathfrak{S} -module W . The first one is given by the adjoint action of the Lie algebra W on itself. It will be denoted by W_{ad} . The other one is given by the PreLie product \curvearrowright and will be denoted by W_{PL} . The fact that the map \curvearrowright is a right action results from the PreLie axiom (1).

Let us now recall results from [CL01, Th. 3.3]. There is an isomorphism ψ of W -modules between W_{PL} and the free $U(W)$ -module on the \mathfrak{S} -module S^1 . By the description of W in terms of rooted trees and the decomposition of a rooted tree into its root and its set of subtrees, the module W_{PL} is isomorphic as an \mathfrak{S} -module to $S^1 \otimes S \circ W$. The \mathfrak{S} -module $S \circ W$ is spanned by forests of rooted trees. The isomorphism ψ can be written as $\text{Id} \otimes \phi$ between $S^1 \otimes S \circ W$ and $S^1 \otimes U(W)$. This defines an isomorphism ϕ of W -modules from $S \circ W$ to $U(W)$, where the action \triangleleft of W on $S \circ W$ is deduced from the product \curvearrowright and is given by

$$(t_1 t_2 \dots t_k) \triangleleft t = t_1 t_2 \dots t_k t + \sum_{i=1}^k t_1 t_2 \dots t_{i-1} (t_i \curvearrowright t) t_{i+1} \dots t_k, \quad (10)$$

where the t 's stand for some rooted trees.

We will from now on identify by the mean of ϕ the W -module $U(W)$ with the W -module $S \circ W$ with this action \triangleleft . One can see from the explicit shape of the action \triangleleft that the W -module $U(W)$ has a decreasing filtration by the number of connected components of the forest.

The associated graded module is given by the action

$$(t_1 t_2 \dots t_k) \curvearrowright t = \sum_{i=1}^k t_1 t_2 \dots t_{i-1} (t_i \curvearrowright t) t_{i+1} \dots t_k, \quad (11)$$

where we have slightly abused notation by using the symbol \curvearrowright for the action. This is easily seen to be the natural W -module structure on $S \circ W_{\text{pL}}$ obtained by extending the W -module W_{pL} by derivation. This is also the symmetric algebra on the W -module W_{pL} .

One can see that there is only one other term in the filtered action (10), which is of degree 1 with respect to the graduation by the number of connected components and is just a product:

$$t_1 t_2 \dots t_k \otimes t \mapsto t_1 t_2 \dots t_k t. \quad (12)$$

3 Two spectral sequences

Let us consider the usual reduced complex computing the homology of the Lie algebra W with coefficients in the W -module $\mathbf{U}(W)$. This is the tensor product of the exterior algebra on W with the module $\mathbf{U}(W) \simeq S \circ W$.

As an \mathfrak{S} -module, this complex is $(S \circ W) \otimes (\Lambda \otimes W)$. The differential ∂ is the usual Chevalley-Eilenberg map, which uses both the bracket or the action as a contraction:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial(x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \otimes y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge \dots \wedge y_\ell) &= \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \pm (x_1 x_2 \dots x_k) \triangleleft y_j \otimes y_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{y_j} \wedge \dots \wedge y_\ell + \\ &\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq \ell} \pm x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \otimes [y_i, y_j] \wedge y_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{y_i} \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{y_j} \wedge \dots \wedge y_\ell, \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where the signs are given by the Koszul sign rule.

But $\mathbf{U}(W)$ is a free W -module by definition, hence the homology is concentrated in homological degree 0 and is given by the \mathfrak{S} -module S^0 .

Let us now use the filtration on $\mathbf{U}(W)$ to define two spectral sequences computing the same homology. In fact, we will first define a bicomplex and then consider its two associated spectral sequences.

We have to introduce a triple grading on the complex $(S \circ W) \otimes (\Lambda \otimes W)$. Let us denote by n the internal degree of the \mathfrak{S} -module (seen as a collection of modules over \mathfrak{S}_n), by p the degree with respect to the graduation of the symmetric algebra and by q the homological degree with respect to the graduation in the exterior algebra. As W has no component with $n = 0$, one has $p \geq 0$, $q \geq 0$ et $p + q \leq n$.

Let r be $n - p - q$. We will use the triple grading by (n, p, r) . The differential ∂ is of degree 0 with respect to the first grading. Hence one can consider separately each part of fixed first degree n .

The differential ∂ on $(S \circ W) \otimes (\Lambda \otimes W)$ decomposes into two pieces according to the decomposition of the action \triangleleft into the action \curvearrowright coming from (11) plus another term coming from (12).

The first part is defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{\text{pL}}(x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \otimes y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge \dots \wedge y_\ell) &= \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \pm (x_1 x_2 \dots x_k) \lrcorner y_j \otimes y_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{y_j} \wedge \dots \wedge y_\ell + \\ &\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq \ell} \pm x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \otimes [y_i, y_j] \wedge y_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{y_i} \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{y_j} \wedge \dots \wedge y_\ell. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

One can recognize the differential ∂_{pL} of degree $(0, 0, 1)$ computing the homology of the Lie algebra W with coefficients in the graded W -module $(S \circ W_{\text{pL}}, \lrcorner)$.

The remaining terms of the differential are

$$\partial_K(x_1 x_2 \dots x_k \otimes y_1 \wedge y_2 \wedge \dots \wedge y_\ell) = \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \pm x_1 x_2 \dots x_k y_j \otimes y_1 \wedge \dots \wedge \widehat{y_j} \wedge \dots \wedge y_\ell. \quad (15)$$

The map ∂_K has degree $(0, 1, 0)$ and does no longer use the bracket of the Lie algebra W . This is nothing but the differential in the Koszul complex relating the exterior algebra $\Lambda \circ W$ on W and the symmetric algebra $S \circ W$ on W [Pri70].

The two differentials ∂_{pL} and ∂_K are of degree $(0, 0, 1)$ and $(0, 1, 0)$ and their sum is also a differential. Hence they define a bicomplex and one can consider the two spectral sequences associated with this bicomplex.

Proposition 3.1 *The spectral sequence beginning with ∂_K degenerates at first step.*

Proof. As it is known that the exterior and symmetric algebras are Koszul dual of each other and Koszul, the homology of ∂_K is concentrated in homological degree 0 and is given by S^0 . ■

Before studying the other spectral sequence, one needs the two following results. Let us first recall a classical lemma:

Lemma 3.2 *Let A be a Hopf algebra and let N be a right A -module. Then $N \otimes A$ is isomorphic as a right A -module to the free right A -module generated by N .*

Proof. The argument uses the antipode of A to define an isomorphism, see for instance [Jan03, §3.6 and §3.7]. ■

We will also need the following property of some W -modules.

Proposition 3.3 *Let λ be a non-empty partition. Then $S^\lambda \circ W_{\text{pL}}$ is a projective $U(W)$ -module.*

Proof. Recall that W_{pL} is isomorphic to the free $U(W)$ -module $S^1 \otimes U(W)$.

Hence, for each integer $k \geq 1$, the W -module $T^k \circ W_{\text{pL}}$ is isomorphic to the module $T^k \otimes (T^k \circ U(W))$, where W acts on the right factor only. Here, we have used the property of the \mathfrak{S} -module T that $T \circ (A \otimes B) \simeq (T \circ A) \otimes (T \circ B)$.

As $U(W)$ is a Hopf algebra, one can apply Lemma 3.2, which implies that $T^k \circ U(W)$ is a free $U(W)$ -module. It follows that $T^k \circ W_{\text{pL}}$ is also a free $U(W)$ -module.

Now, for each partition λ , S^λ is usually defined as a direct factor of $T^{|\lambda|}$, where $|\lambda|$ is the size of λ . So $S^\lambda \circ W$ is a direct factor of $T^{|\lambda|} \circ W$. As $T^{|\lambda|} \circ W$ is a free $U(W)$ -module, $S^\lambda \circ W$ is a projective $U(W)$ -module. ■

Remark: it may be that all the $U(W)$ -modules $S^\lambda \circ W$ are in fact free.

Let us now go back to the bicomplex. To illustrate the computation of the horizontal spectral sequence starting with ∂_{pL} , we will draw the component of fixed first degree n of the bicomplex in the first quadrant, with the p grading increasing from bottom to top and the r grading from left to right.

We have the following description of the homology with respect to ∂_{pL} .

The bottom line ($p = 0$) of the bicomplex is the complex $S^0 \otimes (\Lambda \circ W)$ computing the homology of the Lie algebra W with coefficients in the trivial module. This is what we would like to compute.

The other lines ($p > 0$) of the bicomplex are the complexes $(S^p \circ W_{\text{pL}}) \otimes (\Lambda \circ W)$ computing the homology of the Lie algebra W with coefficients in the modules $(S^p \circ W_{\text{pL}})$. As we know that these modules are projective by Prop. 3.3, the homology is concentrated in degree $q = 0$ i.e. $r = n - p$.

So the first step of the spectral sequence looks as follows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & * & & & & & \\
 0 & * & & & & & \\
 0 & 0 & * & & & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & * & & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & * & & \\
 * & * & * & * & * & * &
 \end{array} \tag{16}$$

where a $*$ means a possibly non-zero homology group.

As the spectral sequence converges to S^0 because the homology of the total complex is S^0 , one deduces from the shape above that the homology of the bottom line is concentrated in degree $q = 1$ i.e. $r = n - 1$. So in fact, the first step looks like that:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 & * & & & & & \\
 0 & * & & & & & \\
 0 & 0 & * & & & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & * & & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & * & & \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & * & 0 &
 \end{array} \tag{17}$$

Let us denote by $H(n, p, r)$ these homology groups. We will denote by X the \mathfrak{S} -module corresponding to the collection of \mathfrak{S}_n -modules $H(n, 0, n - 1)$ for $n \geq 1$. Note that one does not include the degree 0 component in this definition.

Proposition 3.4 *Let $n \geq 1$. The dimension of $H(n, 0, n - 1)$ is $(n - 1)^{n-1}$. The dimension of $H(n, p, n - p)$ is $\binom{n}{p}(p - 1)(n - 1)^{n-p-1}$ for $1 \leq p \leq n$. There is a filtration on the unique non-vanishing homology group $H(n, 0, n - 1)$ of the bottom line whose graded pieces are isomorphic to the homology groups $H(n, p, n - p)$ of the other lines.*

Proof. Using once again the fact that the spectral sequence converges to S^0 , one can see that the component of first degree n of the horizontal spectral sequence cannot degenerate before the n th step and that the successive pages of the spectral sequence provide the expected filtration on $H(n, 0, n - 1)$.

Let f_W be the generating series associated with W :

$$f_W = \sum_{n \geq 1} n^{n-1} \frac{x^n}{n!}. \tag{18}$$

The function $-f_W(-x)$ is usually called the Lambert W function [CGH⁺96].

Let us consider now the graded \mathfrak{S} -module $S \circ W$. We introduce a variable s to encode the p grading. The associated generating series is

$$f_{S \circ W} = e^{sf_W}. \quad (19)$$

For the graded exterior \mathfrak{S} -module $\Lambda \circ W$, we introduce a variable $-t$ to encode the q grading. The minus sign in front of t is convenient here ; specialization at $t = 1$ gives the Euler characteristic. The associated generating series is

$$f_{\Lambda \circ W} = e^{-tf_W}. \quad (20)$$

The associated generating series for the bicomplex is then given by

$$f_{(S \circ W) \otimes (\Lambda \circ W)} = e^{sf_W} e^{-tf_W} = e^{(s-t)f_W} = 1 + (s-t) \sum_{n \geq 1} (n+s-t)^{n-1} \frac{x^n}{n!}. \quad (21)$$

Here the Taylor expansion is a classical result, see for example [CGH⁺96, Formula (2.36)].

Taking the horizontal Euler characteristic is given by substituting $t = 1$:

$$e^{sf_W} e^{-f_W} = e^{(s-1)f_W} = 1 + (s-1) \sum_{n \geq 1} (n+s-1)^{n-1} \frac{x^n}{n!}. \quad (22)$$

As we known by (17) where the horizontal homology of the bicomplex is concentrated, computing the Euler characteristic is enough to get the dimension of the homology.

Let us first compute the constant term of (22) with respect to s . One gets

$$1 - \sum_{n \geq 1} (n-1)^{n-1} \frac{x^n}{n!}. \quad (23)$$

Hence the dimension of $H(n, 0, n-1)$ is $(n-1)^{n-1}$ as expected.

One can also easily compute the coefficient of s^p for $p > 0$ and get the expected formula for the dimension of $H(n, p, n-p)$. \blacksquare

Remark: the filtration on $H(n, 0, n-1)$ with quotients $H(n, p, n-p)$ for $1 \leq p \leq n$ gives a nice interpretation of the classical identity

$$(n-1)^{n-1} = \sum_{p=1}^n \binom{n}{p} (p-1)(n-1)^{n-p-1}, \quad (24)$$

which can be found for instance in [CDG00, Prop. 2] and goes back to Cayley [Cay81].

4 Description of X

One can get not just the dimensions of $H(n, 0, n-1)$ but a description of the action of the symmetric groups on X .

In [Cha07, Prop. 7.2], the symmetric function $Z_{\Lambda \circ W}$ was computed, with a parameter $-t$ accounting for the cohomological grading. Putting $t = 1$ in the

formula there and removing the constant term, one finds the symmetric function for X .

Let us denote by p_λ the power-sum symmetric functions. If λ is a partition, let λ_k be the number of parts of size k in λ and $f_k(\lambda)$ be the number of fixed points of a permutation of type λ . Let z_λ be the product over k of $k^{\lambda_k}(\lambda_k)!$, a classical constant associated to a partition.

Proposition 4.1 *The symmetric function $Z_{\Lambda \circ W}$ has the following expression*

$$1 + (-t) \sum_{\lambda, |\lambda| \geq 1} (\lambda_1 - t)^{\lambda_1 - 1} \prod_{k \geq 2} ((f_k(\lambda) - t^k)^{\lambda_k} - k \lambda_k (f_k(\lambda) - t^k)^{\lambda_k - 1}) \frac{p_\lambda}{z_\lambda}, \quad (25)$$

and the symmetric function Z_X has the following expression

$$\sum_{\lambda, |\lambda| \geq 1} (\lambda_1 - 1)^{\lambda_1 - 1} \prod_{k \geq 2} ((f_k(\lambda) - 1)^{\lambda_k} - k \lambda_k (f_k(\lambda) - 1)^{\lambda_k - 1}) \frac{p_\lambda}{z_\lambda}, \quad (26)$$

where the sums are over the set of non-empty partitions λ .

Recall that it was proved in [Cha05] the the PreLie operad is an anticyclic operad. This implies in particular that there is an action of the symmetric group \mathfrak{S}_{n+1} on the space $\text{PreLie}(n)$. Let us denote by \widehat{W} the corresponding \mathfrak{S} -module and let us compute the symmetric function $Z_{\widehat{W}}$ describing this action of the symmetric group \mathfrak{S}_{n+1} on the space $\text{PreLie}(n)$.

From [Cha05, Eq. (50)], this symmetric function is characterized by the relation

$$1 + Z_{\widehat{W}} = p_1(1 + Z_W + 1/Z_W). \quad (27)$$

Proposition 4.2 *The symmetric function $Z_{\widehat{W}}$ is given by*

$$\sum_{\lambda, |\lambda| \geq 1, \lambda_1 \neq 1} (\lambda_1 - 1)^{\lambda_1 - 2} \prod_{k \geq 2} ((f_k(\lambda) - 1)^{\lambda_k} - k \lambda_k (f_k(\lambda) - 1)^{\lambda_k - 1}) \frac{p_\lambda}{z_\lambda}. \quad (28)$$

Proof. One has (see [Cha07])

$$\left(p_1 \exp \left(- \sum_{k \geq 1} p_k / k \right) \right) \circ Z_W = p_1. \quad (29)$$

Let us introduce new variables:

$$y_\ell = p_\ell \circ Z_W, \quad (30)$$

for $\ell \geq 1$. Then the inverse map is given by

$$p_\ell = y_\ell \exp \left(- \sum_k y_{k\ell} / k \right). \quad (31)$$

Let λ be a partition with longest part at most r . To compute the coefficient of p_λ in the symmetric function $1 + Z_{\widehat{W}}$, it is enough to compute the residue

$$\iiint (1 + Z_{\widehat{W}}) \prod_{i=1}^r \frac{dp_i}{p_i^{\lambda_i + 1}}, \quad (32)$$

which is equal by formula (27) to

$$\iiint p_1(1 + Z_W + 1/Z_W) \prod_{i=1}^r \frac{dp_i}{p_i^{\lambda_i+1}}. \quad (33)$$

One can assume without restriction that all variables y_j and p_j vanish if $j > r$.

We will change the variables to get instead a residue in the variables y . One has to use the formula

$$\prod_{i=1}^r dp_i = \exp\left(-\sum_i \sum_k y_{ik}/k\right) \prod_{i=1}^r (1 - y_i) dy_i. \quad (34)$$

We therefore have to compute the residue

$$\iiint y_1 \exp\left(-\sum_k y_k/k\right) (1 + y_1 + 1/y_1) \exp\left(\sum_i \lambda_i \sum_k y_{ik}/k\right) \prod_{i=1}^r \frac{(1 - y_i)}{y_i^{\lambda_i+1}} dy_i. \quad (35)$$

Gathering the exponentials and reversing the order of summation, one finds

$$\iiint \exp\left(\sum_k (f_k(\lambda) - 1)y_k/k\right) (1 + y_1 + y_1^2) \prod_{i=1}^r \frac{(1 - y_i)}{y_i^{\lambda_i+1}} dy_i. \quad (36)$$

This integral decomposes as a product of residues in each variable y_i .

Let us discuss first the integral with respect to y_1 :

$$\oint \exp((\lambda_1 - 1)y_1) \frac{(1 - y_1^3)}{y_1^{\lambda_1+1}} dy_1. \quad (37)$$

This is the sum of two terms:

$$\oint \exp((\lambda_1 - 1)y_1) \frac{1}{y_1^{\lambda_1+1}} dy_1 = \frac{(\lambda_1 - 1)^{\lambda_1}}{\lambda_1!}, \quad (38)$$

and

$$\oint \exp((\lambda_1 - 1)y_1) \frac{(-y_1^3)}{y_1^{\lambda_1+1}} dy_1 = -\frac{(\lambda_1 - 1)^{\lambda_1-3}}{(\lambda_1 - 3)!}. \quad (39)$$

Note that some care must be taken in the second term when $\lambda_1 \leq 2$. The resulting sum is zero if $\lambda_1 = 1$ and

$$\frac{(\lambda_1 - 1)^{\lambda_1-2}}{\lambda_1!} \text{ if } \lambda_1 \neq 1. \quad (40)$$

Let us then discuss the integral with respect to y_k for $k \geq 2$.

$$\oint \exp((f_k(\lambda) - 1)y_k/k) \frac{(1 - y_k)}{y_k^{\lambda_k+1}} dy_k. \quad (41)$$

This is also the sum of two terms

$$(f_k(\lambda) - 1)^{\lambda_k} / k^{\lambda_k} / \lambda_k! - (f_k(\lambda) - 1)^{\lambda_k-1} / k^{\lambda_k-1} / (\lambda_k - 1)!. \quad (42)$$

This can be rewritten as

$$\frac{(f_k(\lambda) - 1)^{\lambda_k} - k\lambda_k(f_k(\lambda) - 1)^{\lambda_k - 1}}{k^{\lambda_k} \lambda_k!}. \quad (43)$$

Gathering all terms and removing the contribution of the empty partition gives the result. \blacksquare

From this, one deduces the following relation.

Theorem 4.3 *One has*

$$Z_X - p_1 = (p_1 \partial_{p_1} - \text{Id}) Z_{\widehat{W}}, \quad (44)$$

i.e. the action of \mathfrak{S}_n on $X(n)$ is obtained from the action of \mathfrak{S}_n on $\widehat{W}(n)$ by taking the inner tensor product with the reflection module of dimension $n - 1$ of \mathfrak{S}_n .

Proof. This is a computation done using Prop. 4.1 and 4.2. Indeed, the operator $(p_1 \partial_{p_1} - \text{Id})$ acts by multiplication of p_λ by $\lambda_1 - 1$. There is one subtle point to check, though. In formula (28) for $Z_{\widehat{W}}$, the summation is over all partitions of size at least 2 with $\lambda_1 \neq 1$, whereas in Formula (26) for $Z_X - p_1$, the summation is over all partitions of size at least 2 without further condition. Let λ be any partition of size at least 2 with $\lambda_1 = 1$. Let k be the size of the next-to-smallest part of λ . Then $f_k(\lambda) = k\lambda_k + 1$ and hence the expression

$$(f_k(\lambda) - 1)^{\lambda_k} - k\lambda_k(f_k(\lambda) - 1)^{\lambda_k - 1} \quad (45)$$

vanishes. It follows that all such partitions do not contribute to $Z_X - p_1$ and that one can deduce the expected equation.

That the operator $(p_1 \partial_{p_1} - \text{Id})$ corresponds to the inner tensor product by the reflection module is a classical fact in the theory of symmetric functions. \blacksquare

5 Freeness from homology concentration

We will use the knowledge of the homology of the bottom line of the bicomplex to show that the free pre-Lie algebras are free as Lie algebras.

5.1 General setting

Let P be an operad and assume that $P(1) = \mathbb{K}1$ and let P^+ be the \mathfrak{S} -module such that $P = \mathbb{K}1 \oplus P^+$. Let A be a P -algebra in the category of \mathfrak{S} -modules.

The structure of P -algebra on A is given by a morphism $\mu : P \circ A \rightarrow A$.

Let us define for each $k \geq 0$ a subspace $A_{\geq k}$ of A . Let $A_{\geq 0}$ be A . By induction, let $A_{\geq k}$ be the image by μ of $P^+ \circ A_{\geq k-1}$.

This is a decreasing filtration of A by subspaces. By construction, this filtration is in fact a filtration of P -algebra.

We will furthermore assume that this filtration is separating, which is true for instance if A has some auxiliary grading concentrated in positive degrees.

Let us define $H_0(A)$ to be the degree 0 component $A_{\geq 0}/A_{\geq 1}$ of the associated graded P -algebra $gr A$.

Let us choose a section of $H_0(A)$ in A . Let $\text{Free}_P(H_0(A))$ be the free P -algebra on $H_0(A)$. Then there exists a unique morphism θ of P -algebra from the free P -algebra $\text{Free}_P(H_0(A))$ to A extending the chosen section.

Proposition 5.1 *The morphism θ is surjective.*

Proof. Because the filtration is assumed to be separating, it is enough to prove that the associated morphism of graded algebras is surjective.

This is done by induction on the degree associated with the filtration. This is true in degree 0, because the map θ comes from a section.

Let now $[x]$ be a class in grA_k with $k \geq 1$. Pick a representative $x \in A_{\geq k}$ of the class $[x]$. Then by hypothesis, x can be written as a sum

$$\sum_a \mu(y_a, z_a), \quad (46)$$

where $y_a \in P^+$ and $z_a \in A_{\geq k-1}$.

Then it follows from the fact that we used a filtration of P -algebra that the class $[x]$ itself can be written as

$$\sum_a \mu(y_a, [z_a]), \quad (47)$$

where $y_a \in P^+$ and $z_a \in A_{\geq k-1}$. Each class $[z_a]$ in grA_{k-1} belongs to the image of θ by induction. Therefore $[x]$ belongs to the image of θ . ■

To show that the morphism θ is an isomorphism, an argument of equality of dimension (in some appropriate sense) between A and $\text{Free}_P(H_0(A))$ is therefore sufficient.

5.2 Application

Let us apply the general setting above to the case that we are studying. The operad P is the operad Lie . The P -algebra A is the \mathfrak{S} -module W . As W has no component in degree 0, one can apply the previous construction. The space X is exactly the homology group $H_0(A)$.

Theorem 5.2 *The \mathfrak{S} -module W is isomorphic as a Lie algebra in the category of \mathfrak{S} -modules to the free Lie algebra $\text{Lie} \circ X$ on the \mathfrak{S} -module X .*

Corollary 5.3 *For any vector space V , the free pre-Lie algebra on V is isomorphic as a Lie algebra to the free Lie algebra on $X(V)$.*

Proof. As follows from section 5.1, there is a map θ from $\text{Lie} \circ X$ to PreLie which is surjective. To prove the theorem, it suffices to compare the dimensions.

Let f_X be the generating series

$$\sum_{n \geq 1} (n-1)^{n-1} \frac{x^n}{n!}, \quad (48)$$

which is associated with the \mathfrak{S} -module X of indecomposable elements of PreLie as a Lie algebra. We have to check that the generating series of the free Lie algebra $\text{Lie} \circ X$ on X is equal to f_W . As the series f_{Lie} is $-\log(1-x)$, this amounts to the equality

$$-\log(1-f_X) \stackrel{?}{=} f_W, \quad (49)$$

which can be rewritten as

$$e^{-f_W} \stackrel{?}{=} 1 - f_X. \quad (50)$$

The constant term in x is 1 on both sides. Therefore it is enough to compare the derivatives with respect to x :

$$-f'_W e^{-f_W} \stackrel{?}{=} -f'_X = -(1 + x f'_W), \quad (51)$$

where the right equality is by comparison of the Taylor expansions (18) and (48). But we have by definition $f_W = x e^{f_W}$, hence

$$f'_W = e^{f_W} + x f'_W e^{f_W}. \quad (52)$$

This proves the expected equality and hence the Theorem. ■

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